

September is Prostate Cancer Awareness Month

Please join CMS during Prostate Cancer Awareness Month to increase awareness of prostate cancer and the importance of early detection. In 2012, about 242,000 American men will be diagnosed with this disease. Medicare provides coverage of two screening tools for the early detection of prostate cancer for eligible beneficiaries.

Medicare Coverage:

Medicare provides coverage for Digital Rectal Exams (DREs) and Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) blood tests once every 12 months for all male beneficiaries aged 50 and older. The PSA blood test must be ordered by the patient's physician or qualified non-physician practitioner. The DRE must be performed by a physician or non-physician practitioner who is authorized under state law to perform the examination. Both screenings are covered under Medicare as a Part B benefit.

How Can You Help?

As a provider of healthcare to men with Medicare you can help your patients make an informed decision about prostate cancer screening:

- Talk with your patients about the nature and risk of prostate cancer
- Share current information about prostate cancer screenings with them
- Share the risks, benefits, and alternatives to prostate cancer screening
- Inform them about the prostate screenings covered by Medicare that may be appropriate for them

For More Information:

Resources from the MLN:

- [The Guide to Medicare Preventive Services](#), Chapter 12
- [Medicare Preventive Services Quick Reference Information Chart](#)
- [Cancer Screenings Brochure for Physicians, Providers, Suppliers, and Other Health Care Professional](#)

Other Resources for Healthcare Professionals:

- [Center for Disease Control and Prevention Prostate Cancer Website](#)
- [National Cancer Institute- Prostate Cancer](#)